

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-8 and 10-32 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 3-5, 7 and 8 are amended and claims 2, 9, and 33-35 are canceled. No new matter is added. In view of at least the following remarks, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Applicants appreciate the allowance of claim 18 and the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 2-7, 9, 11, 13-17, 24 and 32.

Claims 1, 8, 30 and 31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0050980 (Furuki) in view of JP 10-207389 (Hiroshima); claims 10 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Furuki and Hiroshima and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,341,980 (Noguchi); claims 19-23, 25-29, 34 and 35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Furuki and Hiroshima and further in view U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0054986 (Leman); and claim 33 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 09-134132 (Niitsuma) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,859,219 (Sall).

Entry of the above amendments is respectfully requested under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 because the amendments are made (1) to cancel claims and to comply with requirements of from expressly set forth in a previous Office Action and/or (2) to present the rejected claims in better condition for appeal. Specifically, responsive to the Examiner's suggestion on page 11 of the Office Action, Claim 1 has been amended to include the features of allowable claim 2 and claim 8 has been amended to include the features of allowable claim 9. Claims 1 and 8 are also amended to remove the features previously added in Applicants' August 2, 2007 Amendment. Claims 3-5 and 7 have been amended only to depend from claim 1. Claims 33-35 are canceled.

As amended, independent claims 1 and 8 are in condition for allowance. Claims 10, 12, 19-23, and 25-31 depend from one of independent claims 1 and 8, and are therefore also in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,


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